



**U.S. Army Corps
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Walla Walla District
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Don't take chances - play safely in, on, near the water over Labor Day holiday - a few tips for summer's last outdoor recreation weekend

Walla Walla, Wash. - Summer's almost over; kids are going back to school. The upcoming holiday weekend will offer most outdoor recreation seekers their last big trip to the lakes and rivers for the season.

"This coming weekend represents the last really good chance for families and friends to get outside and play," said Erik Petersen, natural resources manager for the Dworshak Dam and Reservoir near Orofino, Idaho. "Visitors will come to camping, swimming, and day-use recreation facilities around the inland Pacific Northwest that are operated by the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. We look forward to having them come to our beautiful facilities. However, we want everyone to get home safely, too."

Remembering a few basic safety tips and common-sense practices go a long way toward making happy memories for everyone. Petersen offered some suggestions:

"Parents... please watch your children carefully every time they're in, on or near the water.

"Always swim with a buddy and don't overestimate your skills.

"Remember to have a properly-sized life jacket or other personal flotation device with you for every person on your boat. Set a good example -- wear yours and make everyone on your vessel do the same from the time they board until the time they arrive back at the dock.

"Never consume alcohol or other substances and then operate a vessel.

"Beware of dropoffs and changing currents."

For more information and water safety materials, contact a park ranger at any of the following Army Corps of Engineers recreation facilities in the Walla Walla District:

- * **Boise, Idaho -- Lucky Peak Dam and Reservoir; Boise River; (208) 343-0671;**
- * **Orofino, Idaho -- Dworshak Dam and Reservoir; North Fork, Clearwater River; (208) 476-1255;**
- * **Umatilla, Ore. -- McNary Dam and Reservoir; Columbia River; (541) 922-3211;**
- * **Tri-Cities, Wash. -- Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental Dams; Snake River; (509) 547-7781;**
- * **Clarkston, Wash. -- Little Goose and Lower Granite Dams; Snake River; (509) 751-0240;**
- * **Walla Walla, Wash. -- Bennington Lake and Mill Creek Dam; Mill Creek; (509) 527-7160.**

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